The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST OF LABOR

## WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE.

VOL. 5, NO. 35. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1915. WHOLE NO. 243.

## RAILROADERS UNITE; WANT EIGHT-HOUR DAY

Washington, Nov. 27.—At a conference in this city between members of the executive committees of the brotherhoods of engineers and firemen and enginemen, and their executive, representatives were selected for a conference of the four brotherhoods of engineers, firemen and enginemen, conductors and trainmen, to be held at Chicago, Dec. 15, when these train-service employes will demand that the railroads of the United States and Canada grant a general eight-hour workday and time and one-half for overtime.

The brotherhoods will act jointly. They are divided in the United States into three districts, that representation may be equalized, and at each district meeting six delegates from each brotherhood are selected to attend the general meeting. Canada will also have representation.

The western district, comprising all territory west of Chicago, will hold its meeting in that city, Dec. 10. The eastern division, east of Chicago and north of the Ohio river, will meet in Cleveland, Nov. 15. The southern division, south of the Ohio river, held its conference in this city during the past week, and this was attended by engineers and firemen and enginemen, as the conductors and trainmen had previously selected their representatives.

At the conference in this city the opinion was expressed that the main conference will not handle the eight-hour demand with secondary questions, thereby allowing the companies to isolate the real issue. It was declared that it is quite possible this plan will be adopted, and that in Chicago will be made the social history because of the unity these four gigantic brotherhoods of workingmen will present.

### TYPOS FIGHT INSANITATION.

Baltimore, Nov. 27.—The Typographical union is conducting a campaign for sanitary printing offices, and makes this point:

"The prevention of tuberculosis and of lead poisoning is an necessary as the prevention of smallpox, and the state should exert as much effort to stamp out these so-called diseases of occupation as it does in eradicating the filthy one. They are all scourges, they all spread filth and dirt and disease, and are a menace to society as dirty homes or dirty streets.

"It may be said that the state is now doing all that can be done in eradicating tuberculosis by the establishment of sanitariums for the treatment of tuberculous individuals and caring for those who cannot be given attention at their own homes. While praiseworthy, in doing this the state is simply sheltering the stolen horse—the stable door is still open. By erecting a structure from the roof downward; a sound foundation can never be constructed upon such a plan."

### WON'T FIGHT UNIONS.

Portland, Ore., Nov. 27.—The Grocers and Merchants' association of this city has declared President Hofer of the Oregon Retail Merchants' association that it is not in sympathy with his action in advising members to join the so-called Oregon Employers' association.

The local association declares this would tend to bring on an industrial war in Portland," that Portland merchants have "always been considered fair-minded labor," and that the "Portland Grocers and Merchants' association is absolutely opposed to such consolidation and will not be bound to any such action of the state association in this matter."

It was further resolved that "a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Central Labor Council of Portland."

### INSISTS ON FIRE PROTECTION.

Cincinnati, Nov. 27.—Mayor Spiegel has signed the ordinance requiring motion picture theaters, which have moving picture screens and asbestos curtains, to employ men on the stage. The ordinance was opposed in the theatrical interests and certain public officials, but the mayor replied:

"I took into consideration that motion picture theaters are patronized largely by women and children, and that no precaution in the interest of safety should be neglected. The employment of competent men on each stage is a precaution against fires or panics. If I have erred in signing this ordinance I prefer that my error should be on the side of safety."

### POSTAL DEPOSITS INCREASE.

Washington, Nov. 27.—National savings deposits during October increased $2,150,000 over the preceding month, which gives, postal officials say, "a clear reflection of the great tide of prosperity and commercial activity that is sweeping over the country."

On October 31 these savings aggregated $71,580,000, deposited by 652,000 individuals.

### WANT REPORT PUBLISHED.

San Francisco, Nov. 27.—The A. F. of L. convention, last week, adopted a resolution that the executive council be asked to print and furnish free to the public copies of the reports of the United States commission on industrial relations.

## POWER OF UNIONISM SHOWN

New York, Nov. 27.—Officers of the state federation of labor have issued a circular to the New York organizations, urgently calling attention to the effective work of trade unionists in their recent campaign against the proposed state constitution.

"United labor did not accomplish it all," says the circular. "There were other elements and other interests which opposed. But these elements and interests would been powerless to defeat the proposals to the result if the New York state federation had not organized and led the fight. We know we have made a fine record and gave our reasons for opposition so clear that all citizens knew the dangers to their rights, form and liberty in the proposed fundamental law. The New York state federation of labor, through its representatives, closely watched the work being turned out by the corporation-lawyer-ridden constitutional convention, suggestions to place the complete work in conformity with the wishes of the citizens of the state; these were rejected. We protested against what the convention was preparing to choke down the people of the state; that was rejected also. Thus we were acquainted with the seriousness of the situation to the people when the work of the convention was finally submitted.

"By means of meetings, conferences, literature and speakers the state federation of labor turned on the searchlight of publicity to such an extent and effect that the labor forces awoke to the peril that menaced them and unitedly rebuked the convention and cast aside its work."

## $12,000 A YEAR ADVICE ON FOOD FOR WORKERS

Toronto, Canada, Nov. 27.—General Manager Coussens, of the Toronto civic electric system, a government-owned utility, has his own views on the amount of food necessary to sustain a big-muscled electrical worker. He believes, for instance, a Saturday lunch for these huskies should consist of boiled rice, apple pie, bread, butter and tea. For Monday's lunch he is quite sure a tomato salad, bread and tea is sufficient, while he would arrange Tuesday's midday banquet as follows: Vegetable soup (without meat), bread, butter, jam and tea.

The general manager is paid a salary of $12,000 per year, which is more than the chief justice or the premier of Canada receives. The electrical workers employed by the hydro electric system are on strike because the commissioners in charge of the public utility have refused to accept an award given by a board appointed under the industrial disputes act of Canada. The law makes it illegal to call a strike or enforce a lockout in a public utility until a government appointed board investigates the dispute. In the present case the board indorsed the unions' request for wage increases and now the hydro electric commission refuses to accept the award.

To support the claim that the employee should not receive a wage increase Twelve-Thousand-Dollars-a-Year General Manager Coussens compiled a schedule of things necessary for a family of five—not for every family, but for a workingman's family.

No druggist compounding a medicine would exercise more precision than our near-journalistic gentleman gave to his weekly (can also be spelled "weakly") bill of household necessities. Workers' day's menu shows that oyster stew, crackers, tea, jam and jelly will suffice for lunch. Only the housewife and daughter of crackers necessary to sustain life. For dinner, to be eaten the same day, butter is placed, besides tea, on the bill of jelly excesses at lunch time. So the evening meal, after a hard day's work, is arranged thusly: Soup, bread, butter, tomatoes, bread, lettuce salad, cinnamon buns.

For Saturday's dinner, these "hands," who risked their lives all week, are given the perilous privilege of eating meat for since Monday. But lest they acquire extravagant notions, Mr. Coussens provides that the third meal Monday shall be bread, butter, jam and cocoa.

Despite the general manager's closest estimate, Mr. Coussens' food schedule of things necessary for a family of five—not for every family, but for a workingman's family.

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Despite the general manager's closest estimate, Mr. Coussens' food schedule of things necessary for a family of five—not for every family, but for a workingman's family, he ignores such necessities as newspapers, books, music and magazines. These seem to be included in "sundries," which is listed as free. For "recreation, entertainment and holidays" he allows $12 per year, or a little less than 25 cents a week. For street cars, $20 per year, or a fraction over 37 cents a week is declared sufficient.

### COMPENSATION BEGINS JAN. 1.

Harrisburg, Pa., Nov. 27.—The first of next year this state will be doing liability insurance business, when the state workmen's insurance board, which administers the insurance fund, will be shorn of its power to write policies the advantages that state insurance offers, one of the most prominent being that insurance is per cent less than the rates charged by commercial insurance companies. The fund contains $12 per year, or a little less than 25 cents a week. For street cars, $20 per year, or a fraction over 37 cents a week is declared sufficient.

While it is optional with employers to insure under the state insurance act, Chairman Mackey of the workmen's compensation board explains that virtually every employer will be obliged to accept it because he has been stripped of the old defenses against common law liability—"contributory negligence, assumption of risk and negligence of a fellow employe." With these defenses barred by law it will be nearly impossible for an employer to win a law suit, and to that extent the matter of self-defense, accept the compensation law, argues Mr. Mackey.

### PRIVATE SHIP YARDS ARE HIGH.

Washington, Nov. 27.—Government navy yards engaged in building hit r-per private shipbuilding yards last week when bids for two battleships, which the navy officials of 28 states have already pledged their co-operation in the observance of the anglo-wide "safety week," March 4 to 11, 1916. Instructions and bulletins are being prepared for a baby show, a children's health conference and any kind of a children's exhibit in cities or in the smallest of communities. It is hoped that a bulletin will be shortly available for free distribution in which the experience of the model cities in this work will be made public.

### PROMISED FREE BOARD.

Washington, Dec. 1.—Employers of machists in this city refuse better working conditions to their union workmen, but they can give free board and lodging to strike-breakers. This was shown by striking machinists, who have made public a blank form, offered strikebreakers, on which states that "I understand I am to receive free board and lodging for as long a time as the company deems it necessary."

### MINIMUM WAGE FIXED.

Aberdeen, Wash., Nov. 27.—The city council has passed an ordinance which fixes the minimum wage of all city employes at $2.50 for an eight-hour day. Municipal ownership and high-contract ors must pay this rate, also.

### BREWERS TO ASK INCREASES.

Cincinnati, Nov. 27.—Unions of brewery workers in this city are preparing a request of higher wages, which will be presented to employers. It is proposed that the scale run for a period of four years.

## SAYS AUSTRALIAN LAW DENIES STRIKE RIGHTS

Adelaide, South Australia, Nov. 27.—The Daily Herald makes sharp answer to the statements of W. H. Phillipps, retiring president of the Employers' Federation of South Australia, who approves the industrial arbitration act which empowers courts to prohibit strikes, and condemns the "preference to unionists" portion of this law. The Labor party is blamed for the latter section which Mr. Phillipps describes as the "thin end of the coercive wedge which will destroy the great British principle of personal liberty."

The Daily Herald assures the employer that the principle of "preference to unionists" was first introduced by a Liberal government in New South Wales and by a Liberal government in the federal parliament.

"All that the Fisher (Labor) ministry has done is to enable it to government work in accordance with the policy which was sanctioned by an overwhelming majority at the federal election last year," says the paper, which makes this further interesting comment on the industrial arbitration act:

"To rob a man of his right to strike, the fundamental principle of which is declared to be 'strictly just' (according to Mr. Phillipps), but to give power to a judge to, in certain circumstances, grant preference to men who have the good sense to join a union which will protect their rights is solemnly declared to be the 'thin edge of the wedge which will destroy the great British principle of personal liberty.'

"To compel a man to work under conditions which he objects to is slavery, but that is what the industrial arbitration act of 1912 does. To some it gives power to go to the arbitration court, to others it does not afford that opportunity, but holds over their heads the punishment of fine and imprisonment if they do what Mr. Phillipps describes as 'strictly just.'

"The Daily Herald has this to say of the much-discussed "preference to unionists" provision.

"The sober fact is that a judge will only grant preference to unionists if he thinks it will bring about industrial peace."

### REFUSES INJUNCTION, BUT—

Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 27.—Judge Dillon refused to grant a temporary injunction against the Machinists' union, whose members are on strike against the Dunlap Manufacturing company and the Modern Tool Co. Dis and Manufacturing company. The court held it was unfair to place this stigma on the union as a whole.

But—

The court enjoined a score of the active strikers from picketing the plants. They are also enjoined from using the "intimidation" nonunionists, proceedings the machinists, as well as the courts, are unlawful, with penalties fixed by statutory law after a trial by jury. Employers are enjoined from such practices, as it will, they hope, have a discouraging effect on those strikers who are not implicated in this injunction. The right of machinist is now charged by the employers with violating Judge Dillon's injunction. It will be a matter of conscience by showing the court—who acts as judge, jury and executioner—why he should not be punished.

Under this procedure the striker is assumed to be guilty until proven innocent, differed from one accused of any other crime, no matter how heinous.

In any other proceedings he is assumed to be innocent, and is accorded a trial by jury, instead of being subjected to the mercies of one man, who may choose interprets his own law and has unrestricted power to punish those whom he says are guilty of violating his law.

### SEAMEN'S LAW APPROVED.

San Francisco, Nov. 27.—Unanimous approval of the seamen's law was voted by the A. F. of L. convention, which rejected the opposition organized labor to any attempt to weaken the measure. Regret was expressed at the interpretation of certain sections of the new law by the department of commerce.

It was declared:

"We protest most earnestly against any weakening of this legislation, and we urge that it be strengthened in its safety provisions. We regret that the department of commerce has deemed it its duty to give to the public a construction of legislation which we believe to be contrary not only to the spirit of the law, but the letter."

The resolution refers to rulings on some of the safety provisions as applied to foreign vessels exempted in certain cases.

### COMPENSATION LAW ATTACKED.

Sacramento, Cal., Nov. 27.—When Supreme Justice Henshaw dissented from the decision of the state court of compensation law, he gave an idea, it is claimed, to a San Diego company who now use Justice Henshaw's argument in an appeal from a decision of the state industrial accident commission.

If the decision is upheld it will deal a severe blow to the law. The appeal is based on the ground that the law, a constitutional amendment was passed in 1911, which enabled the passage of the law, it did not specifically provide for compensation of dependent relatives of victims of fatal accidents, but merely compelled employers to pay employes for injuries.

### DISHONEST LABOR AGENTS.

Austin, Tex., Nov. 27.—Commissioner Woodman of the state bureau of labor has issued a warning to employers against this state that he has revoked the license of one private labor agent because he "sent" would-be laborers to different points where there was no employment, and refused to return fee charged, and acted in an unbusinesslike manner toward female applicants, and posted notices of jobs when there was no demand for help.

The commissioner warns these concerns that he "will have no mercy for the person or agency that mistreats his applicants."

### HAS RIGHT TO INSPECT FOOD.

Harrisburg, Pa., Nov. 27.—Pennsylvania has the right to inspect food products shipped from other states, rules the deputy state attorney general.

The decision was given in regard to inspection of food products shipped into this state, which has laws by which the manufacturers contend, comply with the federal food and drug laws and were therefore exempt from Pennsylvania inspection.

### GRANITE CUTTERS WIN.

San Francisco, Nov. 27.—Organized granite cutters in this state, who have been on strike since June 1, have secured a settlement that includes substantial wage increases.

## SOUTHERN MILL OWNER DEFENDS CHILD LABOR

New York, Nov. 27.—President Sherard of the Southern cotton association opposes the Palmer federal child labor bill, which will be re-introduced at the coming session of congress. He says the bill fixes the age limit for child employment at 16, and now Secretary Lovejoy of the national child labor committee, in a letter to a southern newspaper, intimates that Mr. Sherard will find the bill he will find the 16-year limit applies only to mines and quarries, and that the limit for workshops is 14 years.

Other statements by President Sherard are answered as follows:

"Let Mr. Sherard's greatest objection to the bill is, waiving the matter of the age limit which he misunderstood, that the south, educationally, is unready for it. He says the textile manufacturers employ children, not because child labor is cheap, but for the sake of the children (and here let me say that we are glad to have he admits that it is not an economic asset). There being no adequate school system in the south as yet, he says, these children are in fact rendered except the mills. Therefore the mill men employ them. This is a most ultruistic view of the matter, of labor, if anything to take, but unfortunately there seems to be something wrong with their argument.

"In the first place if we were to say that the southern child has no safe place to go except the school house or the cotton mill, Mr. Sherard and his associates would remove the cotton mills south. In the second place, Mr. Sherard is too pessimistic in regard to educational conditions. Georgia has a department for compulsory schooling is gaining ground in the south. Last year Florida and North Carolina passed local option school attendance laws, while Alabama and Texas went further and passed statewide laws for compulsory school attendance. But this compulsory school attendance movement has always to contend with the fact that the child labor laws of the south are poor."

### RESULTS OF TRADES UNIONISM.

Joplin, Mo., Nov. 27.—Organizer Lowrey, of the United Mine Workers of America, in his last report, says a 25 per cent wage increase has been announced by seven coal companies and that "without additional illustrations of the power of trade unionism:

"The men who heretofore had to eat and change their clothes in dirty doghouses are now being furnished with up-to-date houses, with shower baths and lockers, hot and cold water and pipe lines are also being installed in the mines, and the deadly causes of blasting and squibbing during shift is being eliminated. Check weighmen are being recalled at the union headquarters and offered to co-operate in bringing about another system of pay. The wash boy and scales also are not being tampered with as much as formerly."

### PICTURE OPERATORS GAIN.

Indianapolis, Nov. 27.—The Moving Picture Operators' union has signed a contract with the Motion Picture Exhibitors' association. Wages are increased $1 for night work and from $20 to $22 for day work. Operators working from 10 a. m. till 11 p. m. shall receive $3 a week. Operators working from noon till 11 p. m. shall receive $23 a week. An arbitration board is provided for and strong provisions governing fire prevention.

Baltimore, Nov. 27.—Officials of the Moving Picture Operators' union report that there are now 1,000 men in motion picture theaters in this city that have refused to sign their new scale, which is a raise of $2 per week. The signatures mean an additional $7,000 a year to the "movie" operators.

### FOR SAFETY ON WATER.

Washington, Nov. 27.—It is stated that the department of commerce has framed a bill which will be presented to congress to give the federal government complete control of the building of all merchant vessels of more than 100 tons gross tonnage. No certificate of inspection could be issued to any vessel, unless the plans had been approved by a board of naval experts.

This proposal is an echo of the Eastland disaster and the controversy over the steamboat inspection service that followed.

### CAN'T LIVE ON $626 A YEAR.

Washington, Nov. 27.—How is a man to live decently on the "princely salary of $626 a year?" asks the Letter Carriers' Electric Council, from Philippi, W. Va., is to the effect that Miss Fannie Collins, postmaster of the city, was ordered by the court to go forthwith to jail for the unexpired term of the sentence in connection with the violation of the injunctions during the West Virginia coal miners' strike. An appeal will be taken.

### PAINTERS DEFEAT A LOCKOUT.

San Francisco, Nov. 27.—Union painters have defeated the lockout of the Master Painters' association, which attempted to break the eight-hour day. The 1,000 union workers that from November 1 to March 31 five days would constitute a week's work, and the strike is still on. These workers struck October 31 last for wage increases. They were later joined by the Boston and Albany and the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroads. The New Haven and Albany has adjusted its differences.

### MACHINISTS STRIKE.

Madison, Wis., Nov. 27.—Machinists employed by the Steinle Turret Machine company are on strike for an eight-hour day, time and one-half for overtime and double time for Sundays. Manager Steinle has refused to treat with the union, but declares he wants to meet them as individuals. He declares "he'll run the shop himself if he has to, as a machinist—for years ago.

### OBJECTS TO "CHAIN GANG."

Wilmington, Del., Nov. 27.—The General Labor Union has forwarded a protest to the police commission against the practice of chaining men convicted of petty offenses to each other. This practice was reported by State Factory Inspector Lynch.

## UNORGANIZED OBJECT TO INCESSANT TOIL

Washington, Nov. 27.—Street car men in the nation's capital are unorganized, and conditions of these workers are such that they are writing anonymous complaints to the public utilities commission, which has given the letters no consideration on the ground that they were not signed. Probably the commission overlooks the fact that the nonunionists have no protection and do not dare sign their names. One writer, to emphasize the need for action, declared that "Samuel Compers will be appealed to if conditions are not bettered." Later it was announced that the commission "may depart from its usual custom of ignoring unsigned letters and undertake an investigation of the matter—if inferior service results from long hours."

In one of the complaints this insight into the motormen's existence is given:

"Substitutes are often required to report at 4.50 or 5.50 a. m., only to learn that they are not needed at that time. They then are compelled to return at noon, when they may or may not be given work. If the latter happens they may get a late run, going off duty at 2 a. m., and being compelled to report for duty a couple of hours later, thus not allowing sufficient time to go home for rest. In the one, on account of the shortness of the periods off duty, are actually compelled to snatch two or three hours' sleep on the seats or benches in the car yard and then start on another run.

"This condition is not temporary, but permanent, and it is submitted that no human being, working under such circumstances can perform his duties in an efficient manner. Because of the extraordinary care demanded of a motorman on railways the public entrusts to these positions in previous years, but the European war and the holding of their own conventions have prevented us made their visit to England impossible.

Delegates to the convention representing the West Virginia state federation of labor, was elected fraternal delegate to the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

Baltimore was selected as the next convention city.

### CONTINUE TO ROB MINERS.

Denver, Colo., Nov. 27.—A miner correspondent in the Labor Bulletin has this to say of one of the evils confronting Colorado coal diggers:

"Andy Walker, who operates the Monarch mine No. 2, at Louisville Junction, was fined $100 and costs in the district court of cheating the miners in the weight of the coal they mined. The miners would like to know why they should not be reimbursed for that stolen from them. They have to pay $50 for that that is stolen from the miners? If so, is this not putting a premium on robbing those who toil in the mines?

"If a man be fined an amount that is but a small portion of the sum he stole, what punishment should be meted out to property or valuables? What crime had the miners in Monarch mine No. 2 committed that they should be robbed out of their production each day? Is it that it is a crime to be a miner? If so, what is a miner to do, for if they cease work as they did in the recent strike to force fair conditions, they are responsible for not also considered criminals for daring to strike! Let those who bitterly oppose the Ludlow resolution publish statements of their earnings answer those statements.

"We know how many more 'Andy Walkers' there are robbing the miners in the state? If these things are denied in the future, can you expect anything other than that the miners will again strike!"

### COSSACKS' BRUTALITY PROVEN.

Washington, Pa., Nov. 27.—Organized labor's hostility to the Pennsylvania state police, known as "cossacks," was shown to be justified by the testimony of Deputy Detective Mitchell at the trial of Fred Kolbos, who is charged with murder. The detective said that he was assisted by several of the state police in their attempt to extort a confession from the accused.

Kolbos said he was hung from the roof of a barn until he was numb and the blood in his body had rushed to his head, so that he knew scarcely anything. He said he was then pulled up by the rope one of the state police thrust a gun in his face and threatened him until he signed.

Kolbos also said he believed he was going to die, but could not tell of that which was nothing about.

The court has ordered an investigation of the near-hanging.

### M. O. WITH ARBITRATION CLAUSE

Detroit, Nov. 27.—A movement has started in this city to establish municipal ownership of street cars, with an arbitration clause included.

At the recent election organized labor defeated a municipal ownership plan because the clause was missing, thereby giving the commissioners who would control the system dictatorial powers over working conditions. It is now proposed to amend the city charter that the objection of unionists may be removed, and workers are invited to join in this effort.

### COURT REJECTS DICTAGRAPH.

Atlantic City, N. J., Nov. 27.—Supreme Court Justice Kalisch has set aside the conviction of two men found guilty in a lower court on "graft" charges on the verdicts of a dictagraph machine and his dictagraph. The sleuth's testimony was supported by notes of a supposed conversation which a stenographer stated floated to him over the dictagraph. The court ruled that this was not sufficient corroboration because the stenographer could not see or never had heard either the accused before. A new trial was ordered.

### R. B. BROKE AGREEMENT.

Boston, Nov. 27.—Last week it was announced that the Boston and Maine railroad had reached an agreement with its striking freight handlers. Unionists now declare this railroad has broken the agreement and the strike is still on. These workers struck October 31 last for wage increases. They were later joined by the Boston and Albany and the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroads. The New Haven and Albany has adjusted its differences.

### MOTHERS' PENSIONS.

Racine, Wis., Nov. 27.—County supervisors have set aside $2,000 for mothers' pensions. A state law gives these officials power to award pensions to poor, with children, and Racine county supervisors state that more money will be forthcoming next year if it is found the first appropriation is insufficient.

### RENEW AGREEMENT.

Baltimore, Nov. 27.—Bottle, Cap, Cork and Stopper Workers' union, No. 10370, chartered directly by the A. F. of L., has renewed its agreement with the Cork and Seal company. Several bottling firms are reported by these workers.

## A. F. OF L. WILL ASSIST DESPOILED HATTERS

San Francisco, Nov. 27.—All officers were re-elected at the recent convention, which was forced to extend its sessions into the third week because of increased business.

It was voted that each member of organized labor should donate his earnings for the second hour of any one shift worked on Thursday, Jan. 27, 1916, to a fund for the relief of the Danbury hatters who are being despoiled of their property by the American Anti-Boycott association. The executive council was instructed to send out an appeal to all affiliated unions apprising them of the present predicament of the hatters. This money will be used for the benefit of these distressed unionists and is not intended to be given manufacturers or their attorneys. The convention declared the hatters' struggle "was not in vain, for from it comes the enactment into the Clayton law of the principle whose application will prevent the success of the attack that has stripped these hatters of Danbury."

The executive council was authorized to levy a one-cent assessment to organize women workers.

Per capita tax of international unions was increased from two-thirds of a cent to three-fourths of a cent. The committee reported that the A. F. of L. increase, though apparently insignificant, will be of sufficient amount to carry the Federation over this period and bring us early to the point where our office machinery can be operated on a self-sustaining basis."

Delegates W. D. Mahon of the street car men and Max Hayes of the typographical unions were elected fraternal delegates to the British Trades Union Congress. Delegates were also elected to these positions in previous years, but the European war and the holding of their own conventions have prevented them visit to England impossible.

Delegate Duncan McDonald representing the West Virginia state federation of labor, was elected fraternal delegate to the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

Baltimore was selected as the next convention city.

### LET SEAMEN'S LAW BE TESTED.

Fresno, Cal., Nov. 27.—"The La Follette shipping law went smoothly into operation without any of the dire consequences predicted, except that in San Francisco one vessel formerly under foreign registry chose one day to haul the American flag, and thereby come under the provisions of the bugaboo bill," says the Free-Press Republican.

"Now that this law is in operation, suppose we try the experiment of letting it alone for a time and see how long it will work. That is what we do with other laws.

"The American shipping which has left the American flag since the war began, pending the bill, was all shipping that would have been transferred in any event, and this fact does not affect the law's benefits equally with or without this bill. That part of the law is not of any practical significance. What is to come will be of decided significance. The sensible thing for all Americans is to wait and see."

### GOVERNING SYSTEM LEGAL.

Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 27.—The state supreme court has upheld the commission form of government. The town marshal of Edgerton, Kan., who had attacked the legality of this governing system. His attorneys claimed it was "Un-American, and that it combined the judicial and administrative functions.

The court held:

"It has been uniformly held that the municipalities so governed are not in any sense sovereign and that they do not fall within the provisions of the constitution which apportion the powers of government."

The commission form of government was first tried in Galveston after the 1900 storm, and since then has been adopted by practically every section of the country.

### FAVORS A FREE PRESS.

Chicago, Nov. 27.—Judge Taylor has issued a temporary injunction against the civil service commission, which is denying the right to editorial writers and reporters of the Daily News to enter its office or deny newspapers access to the records. The court order reads that the Civil Service Commission be "restrained from conducting its business in such a manner as to deny to the complainant, or to any of its employes, the right to enter the offices of the commission, or to inspect the records of the commission. The paper has questioned the methods employed by commissioners in giving civil service tests, other things, with dismissing employes to make temporary appointments.

### CO-OP. STORES UNITE.

Johnston City, Ill., Nov. 27.—At a meeting of managers of practically every co-operative store in southern Illinois an association has been formed to establish a co-operative buying power that better prices may be secured as well as avoiding evils of co-operation.

### DETROIT MOLDERS STRIKE.

Detroit, Nov. 27.—Iron molders are on strike to enforce a minimum of $3 for an eight-hour day. The A. F. of L. claims that wages in some shops range as low at $2.75.

## DECRY MACHINE-MADE MEN

Washington, Nov. 27.—The greatest thing in life is the right to be a man filled with a "divine discontent," and not a machine, declared Dr. J. H. Dillard of the United States commissioner of education in a speech to the Daughters of the American Revolution. Dr. Dillard declared that wages in some shops range as low at $2.75.

### LET SEAMEN'S LAW BE TESTED.

Fresno, Cal., Nov. 27.—"The La Follette shipping law went smoothly into operation without any of the dire consequences predicted, except that in San Francisco one vessel formerly under foreign registry chose one day to haul the American flag, and thereby come under the provisions of the bugaboo bill," says the Free-Republican.

"Now that this law is in operation, suppose we try the experiment of letting it alone for a time and see how long it will work. That is what we do with other laws.

"The American shipping which has left the American flag since the war began, pending the bill, was all shipping that would have been transferred in any event, and this fact does not affect the law's benefits equally with or without this bill. That part of the law is not of any practical significance. What is to come will be of decided significance. The sensible thing for all Americans is to wait and see."

### GOVERNING SYSTEM LEGAL.

Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 27.—The state supreme court has upheld the commission form of government. The town marshal of Edgerton, Kan., who had attacked the legality of this governing system. His attorneys claimed it was "Un-American, and that it combined the judicial and administrative functions.

The court held:

"It has been uniformly held that the municipalities so governed are not in any sense sovereign and that they do not fall within the provisions of the constitution which apportion the powers of government."

The commission form of government was first tried in Galveston after the 1900 storm, and since then has been adopted by practically every section of the country.

### FAVORS A FREE PRESS.

Chicago, Nov. 27.—Judge Taylor has issued a temporary injunction against the civil service commission, which is denying the right to editorial writers and reporters of the Daily News to enter its office or deny newspapers access to the records. The court order reads that the Civil Service Commission be "restrained from conducting its business in such a manner as to deny to the complainant, or to any of its employes, the right to enter the offices of the commission, or to inspect the records of the commission. The paper has questioned the methods employed by commissioners in giving civil service tests, other things, with dismissing employes to make temporary appointments.

### CO-OP. STORES UNITE.

Johnston City, Ill., Nov. 27.—At a meeting of managers of practically every co-operative store in southern Illinois an association has been formed to establish a co-operative buying power that better prices may be secured as well as avoiding evils of co-operation.

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